or wounded. Under these orders, the following concessions are admissible in respect of students studying/admitted to the Educational Institutions under the Department of Education or financed by the Department of Education:—

(a) Complete exemption from tuition and other fees levied by the educational institutions concerned (including charges levied for the school bus maintained by the school and actual fares paid for railway pass for students or bus fare certified by Head of Institution);

(b) Grants to meet hostel charges in full for those studying in boarding schools and colleges;

(c) Full cost of books and stationery; and

(d) Full cost of uniforms where this is compulsory.

(iii) *Employment*:—

Dependants i.e. son|daughter|near relative of Defence personel who die in harness are eligible to be provided with suitable Group 'C' or Group 'D' civil appointments, on compassionate grounds without registration in employment exchanges subject to fulfilment of age and educational standards prescribed for the posts. In addition, upto two members each of the families of Defence personnel killed in service are given priority IIA in employment exchanges for Group 'C' and Group 'D' posts.

(iv) *Medical Care*:—

The families of deceased service personnel drawing pension are entitled to free medical treatment from Armed Forces Hospitals.

(v) *Housing*:—

Housing being a State subject, most of the States and Union Territories have reserved certain percentage of houses/house sites for allotment to widows and ex-servicemen. War widows are given priority over other entitled categories.

Change in the methodology for determining the poverty line

691. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of rise in the urban and rural poverty as per the recent evaluation, if any;

(b) whether it is a fact that the existing methodology based on the National Sample Survey data for determining the poverty line is outdated and needs a change; and

(c) if so, what steps are contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) The percentage of persons living below poverty line in Rural and Urban areas as per survey of 1983-84 were 40.4 per cent and 28.1 per cent respectively. Subsequently, data on Household Consumer Expenditure have been collected through 42nd and 43rd round of National Sample Survey for the years 1986-87 and 1987-88. These data are being processed. Indications are that percentages of people living below poverty line will come down both in urban and rural areas.

(b) and (c) A Study group on the "Concepts and Estimation of poverty line" was set up to examine and recommend any necessary revision in the definition of poverty line for use in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

After examining various steps on concepts and data availability for determining poverty line it was decided by the Group to use the same methodology as was used at the time of the Sixth Five Year Plan based on the Report of "Task Force on Projections of Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand."